

NCEES Registration and National ID

NCEES began their inaugural system of on-line registration and national ID process this past July targeting the October 2010 exams for the first time use of the system. Applicants were required to register with the online Examinee Management System (EMS) choosing the exam(s), location and afternoon module (if pertinent) necessary to obtain the desired level of licensure.

In California, along with submitting their application to the Board, all applicants were required to register with EMS regardless of whether they were sitting for:

- National exam only (FE/FS and some PE)
- Both a national exam and state exam
- State exam only

There are various scenarios where registration for multiple exams is required to achieve licensure in California. It became very apparent during this first registration cycle that applicants lacked the knowledge necessary to determine which exam(s) is needed for obtaining a license (i.e., Licensure as Civil Engineer requires successfully passing National Civil PE exam AND State Seismic Principles exam AND State Engineering Surveying exam).

This primarily affected our Civil, Structural and Geotechnical candidates who were required to register for both national and state exams.

California represented approximately a third of the total applicants registered for October exams NATIONWIDE.

When Board Staff encountered instances during the application approval process where an applicant registered for incorrect exam(s) or failed to register for all required exams, applicant was notified by phone call or email to correct status prior to NCEES Registration closing date.

After NCEES Registration closing date, Board Staff recognized approximately 300 applicants that failed to properly register for required exams and extended the following options to each applicant:

- For those applicants that failed to register for a National exam, the Board offered a 30 day window from the date NCEES Registration opens for April 2011 exams (late November) to successfully register as required and original fees submitted for October 2010 would be applied to April 2011 fees.
- For those applicants that failed to register for a State exam(s), the Board extended an invitation to sit for the required October exam(s) by supplying a direct Exam Authorization Notice. Due to the short notice of this offer, applicants in this situation were also offered the previous option in lieu of sitting for the October 2010 exam(s).

Future Improvements

Board staff is implementing the following process improvements to the registration system for California applications beginning with the April 2011 exam administration:

- Applicants sitting for State exams ONLY are encouraged to register and obtain a National ID, but national registration is not required.
- Clarify required exams on the Board's website.
- Work with review course vendors and professional associations to disseminate the on-line registration requirements.

Board staff is making the following suggestions to NCEES for improvements to the online EMS registration process:

- Limit applicants to one location selection for all exams chosen.
- Categorize the exam selection process beginning with the type of license desired.